

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 606

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 2015

RE: S.B. No. 508
S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Judiciary and Labor, to which was referred
S.B. No. 508 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require
noncandidate committee preliminary reports to be filed on
October 1 of a general election year rather than ten days prior to
the general election.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from Common Cause Hawaii and two individuals. Your Committee
received comments on this measure from the Campaign Spending
Commission.

Your Committee finds that existing law requires noncandidate
committees to file preliminary reports ten days prior to the
general election. However, with the increased use of absentee
voting, including mail-in absentee ballots that are cast well
before the ten day filing deadline, voters do not have access to
the amount of money noncandidate committees spend on ballot
initiatives or opposing or supporting candidates. This measure
educates voters by requiring an earlier filing deadline for
preliminary reports that disclose noncandidate committee
expenditures.

Your Committee notes the written testimony received by Common
Cause Hawaii that campaign spending by noncandidate committees

2015-1341 SSCR SMA.doc



increases just days prior to the general election. Thus, without retaining the filing deadline of ten calendar days prior to the general election, no public disclosure of campaign spending by noncandidate committees will be available between October 1 and a date well after the general election. As such, your Committee believes that adding the October 1 filing deadline date to section 11-336, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as a new reporting requirement rather than as a replacement to the filing deadline of ten calendar days prior to the general election will provide better transparency regarding noncandidate committee campaign spending.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adopting the language suggested by Common Cause Hawaii to reinstate the preliminary report filing deadline of ten calendar days prior to the general election, so that the October 1 filing deadline will be in addition to the filing deadline of ten calendar days prior to the general election;
- (2) Inserting an effective date of January 7, 2059, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary and Labor that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 508, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 508, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary and
Labor,


GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, Chair



Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
JDL

*Only one measure per Record of Votes